GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:303
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2007
SEABED MAPPING
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has been undertaking sea-bed mapping and have collected sea-bed sediment samples for manganese nodules and hydrates during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and ;

(c) the prospects of off-shore mining and their economic viability?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.303 REGARDING SEABED MAPPING ASKED BY SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY FOR ANSWER ON 20TH MARCH, 2007.

(a) & (b) : During 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out sea-bed mapping of 11,040 sq.km. area off the coast of Gujarat (2190 sq.km.), Maharashtra (2710 sq.km.), Tamil Nadu

(4405 sq.km.) and Orissa (1735 sq.km.). During this period GSI has not collected samples for manganese nodules and hydrates.

(c) : Off shore areas would seem to hold good potential for mineral resources. However, it is difficult to assess economic viability of offshore mining at this stage which would depend on various factors including availability of suitable technology.